



Terry Tamminen
Secretary for
Environmental
Protection

California Integrated Waste Management Board

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

September 15, 2004

RE: Request For Assistance Regarding Targeted Waste Characterization Studies

Dear LEA:

As a follow up to our 2003-2004 Statewide Disposal Waste Characterization Study, the Integrated Waste Management Board is beginning a new data collection effort this Fall. The new study will provide additional information on the types of materials found in the waste stream. The Board will then use this data to update and enhance its Waste Characterization Database, to add to its base of information for use in formulating statewide policy decisions, and to assist local governments and businesses in establishing their own diversion programs. This new effort is four studies in one, targeting four specific waste streams:

- certain commercial generators of waste, such as restaurants and shopping malls;
- Materials Recovery Facilities (MRF) residuals;
- construction and demolition;
- and large self haul loads and drop-boxes.

Additionally, we will confine our sampling to four major metropolitan areas: San Diego area; Southern California/L.A. Basin; San Francisco Bay Area; and Sacramento/Central Valley.

We may need your help in preparing for the MRF residual study. As part of the task to quantify and characterize residuals from MRFs, we need to compile a listing of facilities conducting MRF operations in California. While sources such as the Board's Solid Waste Information System (SWIS) database and various independently published yearbooks and reports list a majority of the active MRFs in the state, additional active sites exist. Once we have compiled the list, we may ask you to review the facility list for your area of responsibility to verify its completeness.

The primary contractor for this effort is Cascadia Consulting Group. In addition, they have two major sub-contractors: SCS Engineers, who will be conducting the generator portion of the study; and R.W. Beck, who will be responsible for the MRF inventory and residuals characterization. A third sub-contractor, Sky Valley Associates, will be conducting the field sorting activities. Board staff, in concert with these contractors, will be working with operators of disposal facilities, MRFs, haulers, and commercial generators to obtain the necessary information and samples of waste to complete the studies. Sampling will occur this upcoming Winter and next Summer, with the final results due in the Spring of 2006.

California Environmental Protection Agency

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Thank you in advance for your assistance. If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Tom Rudy at (916) 341-6229 (e-mail: trudy@ciwmb.ca.gov), or, as an alternate, Nancy Carr at (916) 341-6216 (e-mail: ncarr@ciwmb.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

(SIGNED)

Lorraine Van Kekerix, Manager
Waste Analysis Branch